



The **Rhodoholic**



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Volume 26:3 April 2015

President's Message

The rhododendrons in the garden are beginning to display splashes of colour. The *R. schlippenbachii* is putting on its delicate display and the buds are ready to burst on Clayoquot Warrior. The blue bells have spread their green carpet on all of the beds. A lovely display or a menace! I struggle with this every year as I dig them out.

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society hosted the District 1 meeting on March 26. Seventeen members representing our seven chapters met in the Valley and reviewed a number of issues pertaining to our members. After a report from individual chapters on their activities over the past season, we discussed topics affecting all ARS chapters. Declining membership is one of the common themes and it affects many opera-

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

CVRS Monthly Meeting

Rhodo Pests & Diseases

Guest Speaker, Linda

Gilkesen, Ph.D.

St. John's Church @ 7:30 pm

In This Issue:

**Our Rhodos Won't be
Hurried 3**

Glendurgan Garden 5

Open Gardens 7

**Cowichan Valley Garden
Club Plant Sale 8**

Trengwainton 9

Cook Rhodo Donation 10

**Eswyn's Alpine & Rock
Garden 12**

**Ken Cox and Hartwig
Schepker Presentation 13**

Coming Events 14

**Cowichan Valley & Juan De
Fuca Joint Meeting 15**

ARS Convention 16

**Cowichan Valley Garden
Fair 17**



tional functions of the ARS. The Western VP, Ken Webb and District 1 Director, Chris Hodgson will take our discussion points to the board meeting at the 2015 Convention.

We were invited to Don and Louise Loewen's spectacular garden for a tour following the meeting. They have agreed to share this labour of love with the club on Thursday April 30 from 6:30 pm on. Don't miss this special treat. Ivan Kring has had to step down as Open Gardens Coordinator. Contact me if you are interested in inviting the club to have a stroll through your garden this season.

The sign-up sheet for volunteers for our Cowichan Valley Garden Fair (May 2) will be available at Wednesday's meeting. This is our main fund raiser for the year and we will need all hands on deck. I am sure by now you have your plant divisions ready for the members table and old garden books picked out for the book table sale.

On the heels of the Garden Fair is the 2015 ARS Convention. We will be calling on our volunteers once again to assist with the plant sale in Sidney. Many

volunteers are required for this event that runs daily from May 6 to May 10. Ian has put together a sign-up chart to cover the many volunteer hours required. Please review the chart at Wednesday's meeting and sign up for times that best suit your schedule.

If you are looking for a gift for that special someone in your life, there is one seat left on the UK Bus Tour in May. What a surprise that would be! Contact Bill Dumont immediately if you want that last seat for the UK tour.

Or maybe consider the closer to home option. Seats are available for the Juan de Fuca/Olympic Peninsula trip on April 16 & 17.

Linda A. Gilkeson, Ph.D. will be presenting on "Insects of Rhododendrons and Woodland Gardens" at Wednesday's meeting. We have invited members from the Mill Bay and Cowichan Valley Garden Clubs and expect it will be a full house. Don't forget to bring something interesting from the garden.

Look forward to seeing everyone.

Sandra Stevenson

This month we are featuring in the Rhodoholic
Rhododendrons that start with C.
Enjoy!



Command Performance



Calico Dancer

Our Rhodos Won't be Hurried

Edited and reprinted from the RHS Garden magazine March 2015 by columnist John Grimshaw



R. barbatum

I have spent most of my life gardening on alkaline soil, so finding myself in charge of the late James Russell's magnificent *Rhododendron* collection in Ray Wood at Castle Howard in North Yorkshire triggered a steep learning curve and a change in attitude to this remarkable genus. Now in my third spring here, I am early awaiting the progression of the rhododendron season, the early birds of March being particularly welcome.

There will be the crimson of *R. barbatum* with silky maroon-barked stems, lighter red from *R. mallotum* expanding from furry buds and our pride and joy, a plant of *R. lanatoides* from seed collected in Tibet by Frank Kingdon-Ward in 1924. Seriously rare in cultivation, it has trusses of white and pink flowers above narrow felt-backed leaves.



R. lanatoides

A mild winter and early spring may be good to us but this is not necessarily the case for our plants: early growth so often meets late frosts, with all the anguish they bring. A study led by Robbie Hart at the Missouri botanical Garden, looking at the timing of *Rhododendron* flowering, has shown that in western China, as in Britain, springs have come progressively earlier over the past century as the climate has warmed. Surprisingly though, this has not meant rhododendrons have bloomed earlier-- in fact, they have remained rather constant in their flowering time.

This is attributed to warmer, longer autumns delaying the chilling period required before buds can burst, thus counteracting the effects of milder springs. This is just one interaction of climate, weather and physiology among the many that determine what plants can grow where, whether in gardens or in the wild and which are likely to be perturbed by changing climate. Even if you have worked the same site for years or are, like me, a newcomer to your garden, learning to adapt to these changes will be vital.

This Wednesday's Guest Speaker on Rhododendron Pests and Disease

Linda A. Gilkeson, Ph.D.

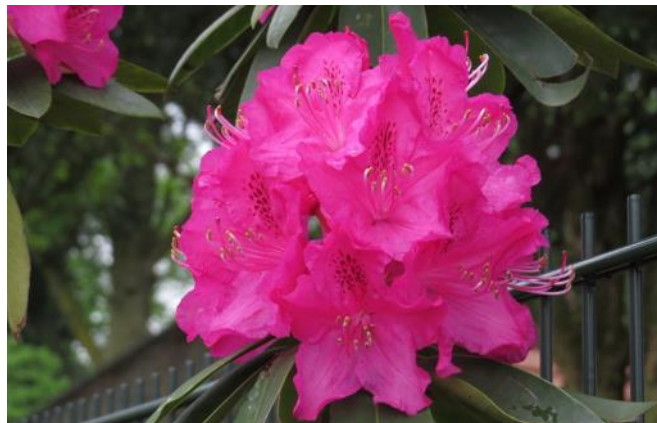
Linda earned a Ph.D. in Entomology from McGill University in 1986, then moved to British Columbia to work for Applied Bio-Nomics Ltd., a company that produces biological controls. From 1991 to 2002 she worked for the provincial government, promoting programs to reduce and eliminate pesticide use. She was head of the provincial State of Environment Reporting Unit for the next six years, then the Executive Director of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy until the end of 2011. Linda now devotes her time to writing, teaching and consulting.

Linda has co-authored pest management training manuals for the government and organic gardening books for Rodale Press. She has self-published two books: Year Around Harvest: Winter Gardening on the Coast and West Coast Gardening: Natural Insect, Weed and Disease Control. Her recent book, Backyard Bounty: The Complete Guide to year-Round Organic Gardening in the Pacific Northwest, has become a BC best seller.

As a private consultant, Linda is a regular instructor in the Master Gardener programs in BC and is busy year around giving workshops on pest management and organic gardening.



Rhododendron calophytum x sutchuense



Cosmopolitan



Claret

**Volunteers Needed to Staff the
CVRS Managed Plant Sale at the
ARS Convention in Sidney. Let Ian
Efford know if you can help.**

Glendurgan – A Small Piece of Heaven on Earth

Glendurgan Garden (meaning deep valley of otters) is a National Trust garden situated above the hamlet of Durgan on the Helford River, near Falmouth in Cornwall. The CVRS tour will visit this subtropical garden during May this year.

Glendurgan Garden was laid out by Alfred Fox in the 1820s and 1830s. The Fox family was one of the most influential and wealthiest families in the Falmouth area. There were Quakers as well as gardeners and the area was covered initially by several productive fruit orchards.

The 25 acre garden is a collection of four verdant combs or valleys full of lush vegetation flowing down to the banks of the Helford Estuary. There are impressive collections of Camellias, Rhododendrons and thousands of other plants including a cherry laurel maze created in 1833. In and out of the maze is a trip of almost $\frac{3}{4}$ mile! Right near the entrance to the maze is BC's official tree the Western red cedar.



Surrounding the maze are trees and shrubs from all regions of the world including *Paulownia tomentosa*, the Foxglove Tree from China. You will also see giant Bamboo, and many more unusual trees and plants. There are large groups of hydrangeas and Rhododendrons including Polar Bear, one of the last to flower in the spring.

No matter where one walks at Glendurgan there are horticultural delights to drool over. Grouping plants through their symbolic associations is not a new idea and was something the Victorians reveled in. Near the Holy Bank you will find *Ailanthus altissima*, the Tree of heaven, *Cercis siliquastrum*, the Judas Tree, *Paliurus -spina-christi*, Christ's Thorn and a recent introduction, *Crataegus monogyna*, "Biflora, the Glastonbury Thorn.

In 1962 Glendurgan Garden was given to the National Trust by Cuthbert and Philip Fox. The family still live at Glendurgan and have some involvement within the grounds, some one hundred and eighty years since Alfred first arrived.





Cimmaron Sun



Cade's Cove



California Gold



Consolini's Windmill



Campanile

Open Gardens

It's that time again for open gardens when CVRS members and friends can visit the home gardens of some of the best gardeners in the Cowichan Valley. This year we are doing the open garden program in conjunction with the Cowichan Valley Garden Club and the Mill Bay Garden Club. The first gardens open to everyone will be a double-header.

Thursday April 30:

- Don Loewen and Louise Neveu - 6:30 pm on – 6324 Genoa Bay Road (Maple Bay)
- Ian and Shirley Efford – 6:30 pm on – 2307 Locksyde Drive, Duncan (off Lakes Road)

Friday May 8:

- Al and Sandy Campbell – all day – 1995 Shawnigan Lake Road
- Peter Lewis- 1 pm to 3 pm – 2580 Riverfield Road, near Bright Angel Park-parking only on Riverfield Road.

If you can welcome people to your garden please let Sandra Stevenson (250 748 5570).



Chinese Silver

Chorus line





Cynthia

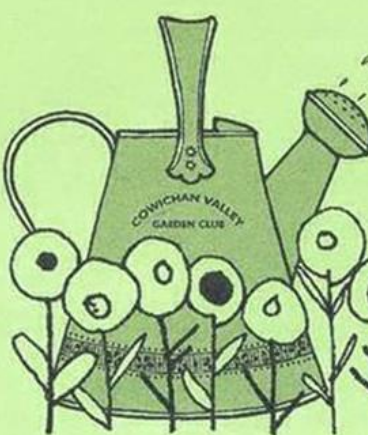


Cinnkeys

COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

PLANT SALE

St. John's Church Hall, 486 Jubilee Street, Duncan
(corner of Jubilee & First Streets)



April 11

Saturday --10 'til 1

ADMISSION ... \$2

Do visit our
'Garden Treasures'
Corner
for more great buys!

Sale Convenor - Esther Craig (250) 246-2422 • www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com • cvgcspringshowandplantsale@gmail.com

POSTER BY ALISON BROWN

Trengwainton - A Plantman's Garden

Trengwainton is a country house and 98 acre garden situated near Penzance in Cornwall, which has been in the ownership of the National Trust since 1961. The garden is noted for its collection of exotic trees and shrubs and offers views over Mount's Bay and The Lizard peninsula. The CVRS UK Tour will visit this garden in May.



Stroll through the walled kitchen garden and you'll walk the length of Noah's Ark; visit the tea-room and you'll most likely eat some of the kitchen garden's produce.

The walled garden, which was built in Elizabethan times, seems to have been constructed as a response to the period of persistently cooler weather known as the Maunder Minimum. The wall prevented warm air from escaping from the garden on cool nights, thereby allowing frost-sensitive fruit trees to survive, despite the cooling climate at that time.

Another five sections of walled gardens are crammed with tender exotic plants from around the world while other areas feature towering rhododendrons and giant tree ferns.

A dwelling has been on the site since at least the 16th century and was altered and extended in the 18th and 19th centuries. The front of the house faces south, with lawns and to the sides, terraces with long sheltered borders.

In 1814 the estate was bought by Rose Price the son of a Jamaican sugar plantation owner. Trengwainton was sold following the loss of income resulting in the 1833 Emancipation Act which freed slaves on the



family's Worthy Estate in Jamaica. In 1867 the property was bought by T S Bolitho whose family still live in Trengwainton House. Rose Price planted trees and built the walled gardens, which are said to be based on the dimensions of Noah's Ark and in 1925 Sir Edward Bolitho and his head gardener Alfred Creek continued the development of the garden. They were opened to the public, for the first time, in 1931. The Victoria Medal of Honour for Horticulture was awarded to Sir Edward in 1961 and in the same year he donated 98 acres to the National Trust.

More Cook Rhodos Go to Sunshine Coast Botanical Gardens

By Steve Whysall, reprinted from the Vancouver Sun gardening blog February 21, 2015

More than 40 rare and unusual rhododendrons were lifted from the garden of Alleyne and Barbara Cook in North Vancouver on Friday and taken to their new home at the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden in Sechelt.

This is the second time the Cooks have donated rhododendrons from their garden to the Sunshine Coast garden which was established about six years ago. About 60 rhodos were dug out of the Cooks' garden last year. This time, the collection lifted comprised mostly varieties of cinnabarinum, a coveted species native to southwest China and southeastern Tibet.

Now in his 90s, Alleyne Cook, who is well-known in Vancouver gardening circles as a rhodo expert, worked for many years as a gardener for the Vancouver parks department, mainly in Stanley Park.



Mayan Vered, UBC horticulture student, carries out an unusual cinnabarinum rhodo

He is credited with being the principle driving-force and visionary for the planting at the esteemed Ted and Mary Greig Garden, located around the pitch and putt golf course in the park.



Alleyne Cook and Gerry Latham under Aunt Mavis camellia.

Doug Justice, the UBC garden's associate director and curator of collections, was on site to watch the work being done.

But the students were directed by their instructor Egan Davis, who worked for several years as a gardener at VanDusen Gardens.

Gerry Latham, president of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden, was also at the rhodo-removal to ensure things went smoothly. She was accompanied by former SCBG president Paddy Wales and garden manager Mary Blockberger.

Other well-known local gardeners turned up to see the historic move, include Gerry Gibbons, long-time gardener at VanDusen, and Larry Wick, whose North Shore garden has been a regular highlight on the district's annual Art in the Garden Tour.

The Cooks realized some years ago that it would be better to see their beloved rhododendrons go to a good home rather than being lost and probably bulldozed when they are no longer around to care for them. Nevertheless, it was still a heart wrenching sight to see the rhodos pulled from the garden which the Cooks built over a lifetime.



Doug Justice with giant, spiky cone from *Pinus coulteri* growing in Alleyne Cook's garden in North Vancouver.



UBC horticultural students moving rhodos from Alleyne Cook's garden in North Vancouver

Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden

The 5th year Anniversary of Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden in Nanoose Bay will be celebrated with an Open House on Saturday, April 25th from 10 – 2.



The public is invited to visit this remarkable public garden which was created in 2009 using Eswyn Lyster's unique collection of alpine and rock garden plants after her death.

Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden is located at Nanoose Place, 2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose Bay.

The event is hosted by Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden Caretakers and is being held in conjunction with Nanoose Art Group's Annual Show and Sale. Come and see art and alpine flowers at their finest.

Coffee & tea will be available. A small selection of plants for purchase will raise funds for the upkeep of the garden.

For further information, contact Elaine at 250-248-9568 or nuttalbay@shaw.ca

Facebook/Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden



Copper Dust



Cloudburst

Mount Arrowsmith Rhododendron Society

Presents

Ken Cox and Hartwig Schepker

Internationally Respected Rhododendron Experts and Plant Hunters Extraordinaire

Arunachal Pradesh: On the Search for Rhododendron in an Unknown and Mysterious Part of North-Eastern India

Date: Monday, May 4, 2015

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Everyone Welcome!

Refreshments – Door Prize

Non-members of MARS: \$5

Presentation: Ken Cox was one of the first people to get into the remote north eastern region of Arunachal Pradesh in 2001.

Hartwig's expedition to central parts of Arunachal Pradesh turned out to be the trip from Hell, with non-stop rain, mud, landslides and rebelling porters. Ken and Hartwig will show this amazing part of the Himalaya and reveal its people and plants.



Rhododendron concinnoides was introduced for the first time into horticulture by Steve Hootman and Ken Cox after a 2005 trip to Eastern Arunachal with Hartwig Schepker.



Camping in Arunachal at 3,300 metres.

Ken Cox of Glendoick, Scotland is a well-known nurseryman, author and plant hunter.

Dr. Hartwig Schepker is Scientific Director of the Botanic Garden and Rhododendron-Park, Bremen, Germany.

Coming Events-2015

March 4, 2015

CVRS Monthly Meeting – RHS Wisley Garden- Margaret Cadwaladr
St. John's Church, Duncan- 163 First St. 7:30 pm
www.cowichan.rhodos.ca

March 9, 2015

Victoria Rhododendron Society – Bob Zimmerman,
Chimacum Nursery
"The Siren Sound of the Species"
The Garth Homer Society, 813 Darwin St, Victoria
7:30 pm
www.victoriarhodo.ca

March 11, 2015

Mt. Arrowsmith Rhodo Society Speaker – Doug Justice
Biodiversity in the Garden 7:30 pm Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
www.mars.rhodos.ca

March 30, 2015

Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre 1 pm
Where to find Alpine Jewels in the Olympic Mountains-David Sellars
<https://alpinegardenersofcvi.wordpress.com/?s=Gardeners+of+Central+Vancouver+Island>

April 1, 2015

CVRS Monthly Meeting – Rhododendron Pests and Diseases – Dr. Linda Gilkeson
St. John's Church, Duncan- 163 First St. 7:30 pm
www.cowichan.rhodos.ca

April 11, 2015

Cowichan Valley Garden Club Plant Sale
St. John's Church 10 am to 1 pm

April 16-17, 2015

Joint Meeting with CVRS and Juan De Fuca Chapters of the ARS
Port Angeles via MV Coho Ferry – 10 am April 16
Olympic National Park, Presentation and Nursery Tours
See details in this newsletter

April 17/18, 2015

VI Rock and April Society Spring Show
Cadboro Bay United Church
2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria
April 17 - 1 pm to 8 pm April 18 - 9 - 3 pm

April 25, 2015

Open House at Eswyn's Alpine and Rock Garden
2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose Bay 10 am - 2 pm

April 30, 2015

CVRS Open Gardens
Don Loewen/Louise Neveu Garden - 6:30 pm -
6324 Genoa Bay Road
Ian and Shirley Efford - 6:30 pm - 2307 Locksyde Drive

May 2, 2015

Cowichan Valley Garden Fair
Cowichan Exhibition 10 am – 2 pm
www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com
Please donate plants for the CVRS plant table

May 4, 2015

MARS Meeting Guest Speakers
Ken Cox and Hartwig Schepker - *Rhodo Plant Hunting in North East India*
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre - 7:30 pm

May 5, 2015 – TUESDAY

CVRS Monthly Meeting – Marc Columbel –from France – Rhodo Expert
St. John's Church, Duncan- 163 First St. 7:30 pm
www.cowichan.rhodos.ca

May 6-10, 2015

ARS Convention
Mary Winspear Centre, Sydney
www.2015rhodo.ca

May 8, 2015

CVRS Open Gardens
Al and Sandy Campbell - all day - 1995 Shawnigan Lake Road
Peter Lewis - 1 pm to 3 pm - 2580 Riverfield Road, Bright Angel Park

May 14-25, 2015

CVRS SW Great Britain Garden Tour
March 25 deadline for registrations – Last Call for 2 seats!
www.cowichanrhodos.com

June 20, 2015

CVRS Summer Picnic and Awards/Wrap Up
Efford's Estate – 2307 Locksyde Drive, Duncan
11:30 am to 2:30 pm

Joint Meeting

Cowichan Valley and Juan De Fuca Chapters



April 16/17, 2015 in Port Angeles

We are meeting jointly with the Juan De Fuca ARS Chapter in Port Angeles next month for an exciting overnight trip. We now have 18 people paid up for this trip. Let Bill know if you are coming- wedumont@hotmail.com ASAP.

Thursday, April 16:

- 10:00 am Depart Victoria on MV Coho - walk on - lunch enroute
- 12 noon Arrive Port Angeles, check in to Red Lion Hotel near ferry
- 1 – 3 pm Joint Meeting with Juan De Fuca Chapter – Port Angeles Library
Guest Speakers: Sue Milliken & Kelly Dodson of Far Reaches Farm in Port Angeles - this entertaining couple will share their passion for plants and plant hunting trips with Steve Hootman to the Himalayas
- 3:30 pm Depart by Bus to Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park and stop at the Park Visitor Centre
- 6:00 pm Return to Red Lion Hotel - Supper at the Michael's Steak House

Friday, April 17:

- 7 am Breakfast at hotel, check out of hotel. Luggage onto bus
- 7:45 am Depart by charter bus for Far Reaches Farm Nursery and Whitney Gardens and Nursery in Brinnon Washington*
- 1 pm Return to Port Angeles - lunch near ferry terminal
- 2 pm Depart on MV Coho for return to Victoria
- 3:30 pm Arrive Victoria

*Includes plant buying opportunities with later shipping of purchases with phyto certificate.

Costs:

Participants pay their own ferry fares US\$35 pp return fare and Hotel Room/breakfast at the Red Lion Inn-Port Angeles- Standard Room no view w/ 2 Queen Beds: US \$109.30 with brkfst, Premium Water-view w/ 2 Queen Beds: US \$131.38 and lunch on April 17.

Payable to CVRS - Box lunch on Ferry—Can \$13, Bus to Hurricane Ridge and Nurseries – Can \$50, Supper at Michael's Can \$37– total \$100.00



Please pay Can \$100 per person at this Wednesday's meeting to confirm your seat.



2015 ARS CONVENTION

SIDNEY, BC, CANADA

MAY 6 – 10, 2015

Fabulous Rhododendron Garden Tours

Location: Mary Winspear Centre

Come join us at the convenient
Mary Winspear Community
Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave. in
spectacular Sidney-by-the-Sea, BC,
Canada.



Convention Sponsors:



Check www.2015rhodo.ca for Registration Forms,
Schedule and Garden Tours.

**International
Keynote Speakers**

Jim Barlup, Washington State

Marc Colombel, France

Kenneth Cox, Scotland

Harold Greer, Oregon

Guan Kaiyun, China

Lionel de Rothschild, England

Hartwig Schepker, Germany



'Champagne Lace', the official convention
rhododendron is a magnificent hybrid





**Special Gifts for first 100 Customers
Don't miss it!!**

Giant Plant Sale and Garden Equipment

Saturday May 2, 2015 10 am – 2 pm
Cowichan Exhibition Grounds Duncan

Free Coffee and Donuts for first 200 customers

- Free admission-lots of free parking
- Doors open at 10 am sharp, come early for best selection!
- High quality plants from 14 nurseries on island and mainland
- More than 2000 rhododendrons for sale
- Rare, hard to find rhodos available
- Many Companion and other beautiful plants for sale
- Truss (flower) display of local rhodos in bloom
- Variety of unique vendors and garden suppliers
- Planting, growing, maintenance advice from experts
- Many excellent buys on quality plants
- We'll help load your plants
- Cash/cheque only please – ATM on site

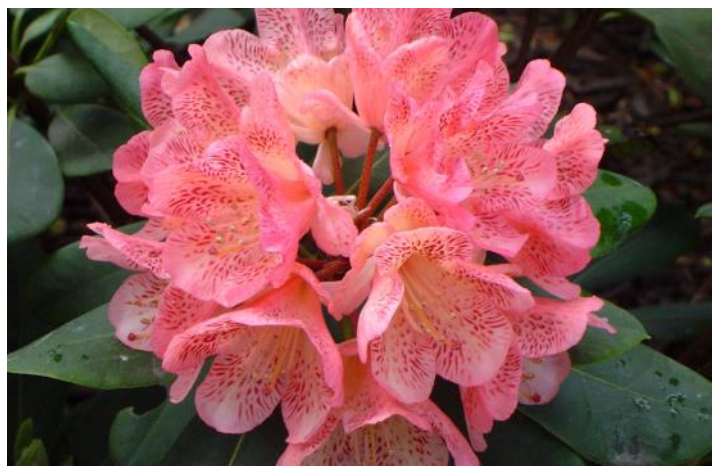
www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com



twitter.com/**CowGardenFair**



www.facebook.com/**CowichanValleyGardenFair**



Capriccio

Please pot up at least 10 plants for the Club sale table and help by signing up for a job at the sale on May 2.

Setup will begin at 1 pm on May 1 at the Cowichan Exhibition hall.

2014-2015 Executive

- President:
Sandra Stevenson
(pinchofherbs@shaw.ca
250-748-5570)
- Past President: Ian Efford
(efford@shaw.ca
250-597-4470)
- Secretary: Verna Buhler
(Vlbuhler@shaw.ca
250-748-8889)
- Treasurer: Bill Dumont
(wedumont@hotmail.com
250-743-9882)
- Membership: Marie
Jacques
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250-743-5021)
- Newsletter Editor:
Bill Dumont
- **Directors at Large:**
Joe Hudak, Elaine Kitchen,
Siggi Kemmler,
Alan Campbell

Convenors

- Sunshine: Mary Gale
- Tea: The Team
- Raffle: Hilda Gerrits
- Club Liaison:
Alan Campbell
- Library: Joyce Rodger
- Program Co-ordinator:
Alan Campbell,
Sandra Stevenson
- History: Ian Efford
- Garden Tours: Alan Murray
- CV Garden Fair: The Team
- Facility Liaison: Roy Elvins
- Christmas Party: The
Team
- Bus Tour: Bill Dumont
- Species Garden Reps:
Siggi Kemmler,
Alan Campbell



Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

A Chapter of the American
Rhododendron Society
P.O. Box 904
Duncan, British Columbia
V9L 3Y3

<http://cowichan.rhodos.ca>

Meeting Tea Service

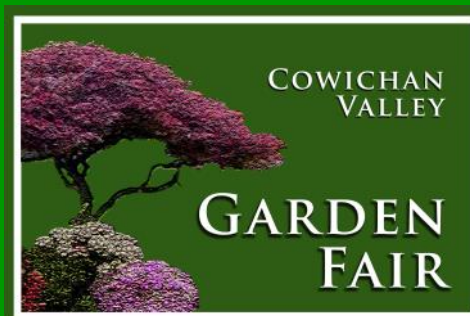
The following are the Team Leaders organising the monthly tea service at St. John's hall for our meetings.

April 1 David Annis Phone list – members 1-15

May 5 Judeen Hendricksen Phone List – members 16-29

Team Leaders should bring a pint of milk/cream for tea/coffee, notify team members to bring goodies, setup and cleanup. Info sheets for all the tasks are in the kitchen.

There should be at least 3 people assigned to help with the tea service. Thanks to everyone who helps. Let the next team leader know if any supplies are needed and you will be reimbursed for costs.



www.cowichanvalleygardenfair.com

Saturday May 2, 2015

Newsletter design/format
& website edits by
Mary-Lynn Boxem
(mboxem@shaw.ca)